

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047169
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 047169

NODIS

USSALTTWO

FOL RPT BONN 03391 ACTION SECSTATE 23 FEB 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T BONN 03391

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PLEASE REPEAT TO USNATO (IMMEDIATE), LONDON, PARIS AND
GENEVA (USSALTTWO)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM MPOL NATO GW

SUBJECT: FRG GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON ENHANCED-RADIATION
WARHEAD (ERW)

REFS: (A) BONN 3324; (B) BONN 3388; (C) BONN 3289;
(D) BONN 3068

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1. THE TEXT OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE ERW
WHICH IS REPORTED IN REFTEL (B) WAS GIVEN US LATE THIS
AFTERNOON BY PFEFFER OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE. PFEFFER,
WHO IS DEPUTY TO POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH,
HAD ASKED US TO RETURN TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF FRG THINKING ON THE FEBRUARY 24 NAC
DISCUSSION OF THE ERW ISSUE.

2. PFEFFER EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION TO ISSUE A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TODAY HAD BEEN MADE BY THE CHANCELLERY BECAUSE OF GROWING DOMESTIC PRESSURES (SOME OF WHICH ARE REFLECTED IN REFTELS C AND D). IT WAS DETERMINED THAT SOME ACTION WAS NECESSARY TO HEAD OFF FURTHER INTERNAL DEBATE. PFEFFER ADDED THAT THE TEXT HAD BEEN PREPARED IN THE CHANCELLERY AND HAD MOVED VERY QUICKLY THROUGH THE FOREIGN OFFICE, WITH LITTLE TIME FOR VETTING BY THE EXPERTS.

3. WE EXPRESSED SUPRISE AT THE TIMING OF THE STATEMENT AND SOME CONCERN AT PARAGRAPH FIVE, WHICH AS PFEFFER HAD NOTED WAS THE KEY ELEMENT OF THE STATEMENT. WE ASKED WHETHER THAT PARAGRAPH WOULD NOT SEEM TO FORECLOSE GERMAN ASSOCIATION WITH A DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE THREE-STAGE SCENARIO WHICH WE WERE TABLING IN THE NAC. THE STATEMENT SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT ANY DECISION ON DEPLOYMENT SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

4. PFEFFER REPLIED THAT THAT WAS NOT THE INTENT OF THE STATEMENT AND THAT BY HIS READING OF IT THAT WOULD NOT BE THE EFFECT.

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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